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R E P O R T

to the

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Haltwhistle Rural District Council

For the Year ending 1964

by

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STAFF :

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W. J. BLACK, M.A.P.H.I.	{ <i>Public Health Inspector</i>
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Mrs. E. THOMPSON	- - -	<i>Clerk Typist</i>
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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

There has been little change in the social circumstances of the area during the year, and any change will probably be gradual. This large Rural District lies in the valley of the South Tyne, and is of considerable natural attraction and historic interest. The long-established occupations of farming, quarrying and mining have been supplemented and overtaken by light industry, and the level and range of employment are now satisfactory. Administratively the District presents special problems because the town of Haltwhistle contains almost half the population; is well served by road and rail, is the social centre and provides most of the light employment, while the other centres of population are small and in general have poor communications. Parts of the District are very sparsely populated. While the population has changed very little for a number of years re-distribution has taken place at the expense of the smaller and remote villages, and as the main demand for houses is to be met in Haltwhistle the town will continue to expand. The smaller communities have a limited appeal and cost limits the extension of the main services to them, but it is hoped that they will settle down to a smaller but stable population.

There was a very slight increase in the population during 1964, but the deaths almost exactly balance the births and there was no natural increase. The birth rate was rather lower than the national average and the death rate rather higher. The infant mortality rate was double the figure for England and Wales, but of the four deaths in infancy only two can be considered preventable. The general death rate followed the usual pattern, with degenerative diseases as the main causes of death. Two thirds of the deaths occurred in those over 65, and almost half in those over 75.

The major infectious diseases were again absent, but there were a large number of notifications of measles. That 32 cases of whooping cough should be notified in a community where the level of immunisation is high is rather surprising, but the cases were mild and may have been modified by protection. The few other notifications call for no comment.

As far as the provision of new houses and improved amenities goes 1964 was a year of preparation rather than of achievement. It is planned to build 88 Council houses, all in Haltwhistle. The special accommodation provided in the one-bedroom flats with a warden, a warning bell system and a communal room has been an outstanding success, and has met the needs of the frail elderly from all over the District. It might be considered advisable to build small numbers of bungalows for old people in the smaller centres, but most old people seem to prefer the town and benefit from the social services available there. In a rural area it is almost as important to improve existing property as it is to build new houses, and the total number of houses reconditioned with the aid of grants is quite substantial. More advantage is now being taken of standard grants and a satisfactory number of applications have been for tenanted property.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply water satisfactory in quality and quantity to the greater part of the District, and cost is the limiting factor to the further extension of mains water to the remaining small communities not so served. Both the Company and the Health Department take regular samples from the mains supply and exchange informations as to the results, the Company then taking any remedial action necessary.

Private and proposed supplies remain the responsibility of the Health Department and help and advice are given where the supply is unsatisfactory. Plumbo-solvency is not a problem, and no chemical samples were taken during the year. It is known however that the fluoride content is low at 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million. The figures required as to the number of houses, in parishes, supplied with water direct from the mains are contained the Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

During the year the Shield Hill sewerage scheme was completed, as were the Rowfoot treatment works. The Consulting Engineer prepared sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for the Bardon Mill and Henshaw area, and the Greenhead and Bankfoot area, and these should soon be undertaken. The scheme for Harpertown and Slaggyford and extensions at Haltwhistle will then follow. The disposal arrangements are reasonably adequate, but some urgency attaches to the schemes now in preparation.

There is one common lodging house in Haltwhistle, now used to only a limited extent. It is kept under regular supervision and conforms to the requirements of the Council.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year, and to the Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation. The staff of the Health Department continue to give efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1964 is 6,860, which is an increase of 20 from 1963.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1964, was 2,360.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1964, is £174,915.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1964, is £681 13s. 8d.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age</i>
Mining and Quarrying	435
Paint, Varnish, Chemical and other Manufactures	738
Distributive Trades	268
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ..	203
National and Local Government ..	70
Professional Services	210
Building Trades	188
Transport and Garages	156
Miscellaneous	89

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District, estimated at 30th June, 1964, was 6,860.

Birth Rate

There were 94 live births, giving a birth rate of 15.75 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 18.4 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of the total of 94 live births, 6 were illegitimate. There were 2 still-births compared with 1 in 1963.

Infantile Mortality

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year. The infant mortality rate is 42.55 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 20.0 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 95 deaths occurred during 1964, a decrease of 1 on 1963. When comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 13.01 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.3 per 1,000.

11 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 16 in 1963.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Live Births :						
Number	..	..	..	..	..	94
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	..	..				15.75
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births						6.38
Stillbirths :						
Number	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..				20.83
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	..	..		96
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	..	..				4
Infant Mortality Rates :						
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..					42.55
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	45.45
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..			31.91
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..				31.91
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	52.08
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)						
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..				Nil.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon : Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
 Gynaecologist : Mr. Hugh Arthur, F.R.C.S.
 Physician : G. J. Murray, M.D.
 Matron : Miss E. Robson..

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist :—Dr. Walker.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

Second Friday every month at 2 p.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.
Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesday..	..	..	..	2—4 p.m.
Wednesday	..	..	..	6—7 p.m.
Friday ..	..	..	..	6—7 p.m.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Sanatorium.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(c) *Domiciliary Service*

Two midwives reside at 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m., and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

Child Welfare Service

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

Clinics are also held at Gilsland and Halton-Lea-Gate every fourth Friday.

School Dental Clinic

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer—Mr. J. B. Wilson.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance service is maintained and run by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1964, 3,606 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents	..	20	Mileage Covered	..	564
Other Accidents	..	8	Mileage Covered	..	208
Invalids	..	279	Mileage Covered	..	6,104
		<u>307</u>			<u>6,876</u>
<i>Car Sitting Cases</i>	..	<u>3,949</u>	<i>Mileage Covered</i>	..	<u>63,473</u>
<i>Total Cases</i>	..	<u>4,256</u>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	..	<u>70,349</u>

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.

Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street,
Haltwhistle.

Hours : Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :—
11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Thursdays :—2—3 p.m.

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the years 1955-64.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1955	14.56	13.22	39.6	.13
1956	14.27	13.20	30	.13
1957	15.20	12.71	28.57	.00
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	29	7	13	25	2	3	1	21	5
Whooping Cough ..	21	9	40	2	—	1	—	—	1	32
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ..	124	15	199	1	8	12	266	—	79	112
Pneumonia ..	—	—	11	—	—	5	2	1	21	8
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
TOTALS ..	162	54	257	18	34	20	271	2	126	158

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births			Live Births		Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1955	56	45	1	5	107	1	—	—	—	1
1956	52	46	2	—	100	—	3	—	—	3
1957	51	54	2	1	108	2	3	—	—	5
1958	51	53	1	2	107	1	2	—	—	3
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	2	2	Legitimate ..	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	—	—		—	—
	2	2		1	2
	—	—		—	—

TABLE VI
CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total	
Prematurity ..	1	1	2	Under 1 week
Cerebral				
Haemorrhage..	—	1	1	Under 1 week
Gastritis ..	1	—	1	Under 1 year
	2	2	4	

TABLE VII.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH				1960		1961		1962		1963		1964	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	...	...	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus...	...	...	...	7	—	3	—	5	—	6	1	2	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	...	...	...	1	4	3	6	1	7	4	3	4	—
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	...	...	...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	8	10	8	7	9	12	4	13	7	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	12	14	21	6	10	9	15	9	9	7
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2
20. Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	6	4	6	5	8	3	5	3	3	9
21. Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	...	3	2	1	4	1	2	1	6	6	1
22. Influenza ...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	1	2
24. Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	5	2	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and ill-defined disease ...	...	...	...	4	2	6	1	3	4	2	6	3	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	2	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	1
34. All other Accidents ...	...	...	...	1	2	1	—	3	4	—	1	1	2
35. Suicide ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...				56	47	57	38	52	46	48	48	48	47

TABLE VIII
AGES AT DEATH

				M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks ..	..	..	..	1	2	3
4 weeks and under 1 year ..	..	..	..	1	—	1
1 — 4 years ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 — 14 „ ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
15 — 24 „ ..	..	..	..	2	1	3
25 — 34 „ ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
35 — 44 „ ..	..	..	..	—	3	3
45 — 54 „ ..	..	..	..	4	2	6
55 — 64 „ ..	..	..	..	8	4	12
65 — 74 ..	..	..	..	12	14	26
75 and over ..	..	..	..	20	21	41
				48	47	95

SANITARY CONDITIONS
IN THE AREA

W. J. BLACK,
Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

General

No Council houses were completed during the year and there was only one house built by private enterprise.

The number of houses let during the year was 13, including two aged persons dwellings, which is the lowest recorded since I was appointed. The waiting list however now stands at 200, which is the largest number of applicants that have been listed. The Council hope to start on the infilling on the Comb Hill Estate and building three storey maisonettes and flats on an allotment site in 1965. It would appear unlikely that these will be ready for occupation in 1965.

Another alarming feature of the waiting list is that those for aged persons dwellings are now higher than when the 32 Greenholme Road Flats were built. These one-bedroom flats are now very popular and despite the retirement due to ill health of the Warden during the year the arrangements continued to work smoothly.

Local Authority Houses

Total number of Houses owned by Local Authority	500
Number of Temporary Dwellings included above	Nil.

Families Re-housed during last 5 years :

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
(a) Slum Clearance	4	—	3	1	—	—
(b) Without Separate Homes ..	5	9	10	3	3	3
(c) With separate Homes ..	10	12	38	13	17	8
(d) From Council Houses ..	4	3	15	—	1	1
(e) Key Workers.. ..	—	—	—	—	5	1
TOTAL	23	24	66	17	26	13
Overcrowding Abated ..	9	9	4	8	4	7
(Included in above figures)						
No. of Outstanding Applications for Council houses at year end ..	170	177	133	159	178	200

FAMILIES REHOUSED DURING 1964

	Aged Persons	Other Classes
(a) Slum Clearance	—	—
(b) Without Separate Homes	—	3
(c) With Separate Homes	2	6
(d) From Council Houses (Living in etc.)..	—	1
(e) Key Workers	—	1
(f) Exchange of Council House Accommodation	—	7

Overcrowding Abated :

Statutory	3
Moral	4
Number of Outstanding applications for Council Houses on the Authorities list at year end ..	200

The following table shows the number of houses completed during the year :—

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	1	1

Slum Clearance

The Council's first 5-year slum clearance programme was completed in 1962 and no large scale slum clearance is expected to take place at the present time.

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES.

Closing and Demolition	<i>No. of Houses</i>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas ..	—
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas (Number of dwellings included above, if any previously reported as " Closed " 4) ..	—
3. Houses Closed, not demolished	—
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ..	—
Repairs	
<i>Houses made fit</i>	
5. By informal action (Part C.11)	44
6. By owners, following statutory notice (Part C.12 (a) and (b))	3
7. By local authority in default of owners (do.)	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruc- tion (Part C.13)	—
<i>Houses patched</i>	
9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation (Part D.14, 15)	—
Clearance Programme	
10. Number of unfit houses in clearance prog- ramme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	—

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

(a) Discretionary Grants					No. of Separate Houses				
Applications submitted to Local Authority					..	24			
Applications rejected						1			
Applications approved						23			
Approximate average grant approved per house..						£209			
Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme						272			
(b) Standard Grants					During the Year		Total		
					L.A. Houses	Private	Total	to Date	
Number of houses approved for grant						—	11	11	71
Number of houses provided with :—									
(a) Bath or shower						—	8	8	42
(b) Wash hand basin						—	9	9	60
(c) Hot water supply						—	8	8	44
(d) Water Closet						—	11	11	54
(e) Food Store						—	8	8	36
(c) No. of houses not included above, approved for grants under the Hill Farming & Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-54									2
No. of houses improved by grants during last ten years.									

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
(a) Discretionary Grants ..	25	23	26	27	10	20	16	20	16	22
(b) Standard Grants ..	—	—	—	—	—	8	15	24	12	11
(c) Ministry of Agriculture Grants ..	7	7	3	6	6	6	4	1	—	2
Total ..	32	30	29	33	16	34	35	45	28	35

The number of applications for Discretionary and Standard Grants approved by the Local Authority has risen this year and a pleasing feature is that 14 of these applications were for tenanted properties as against 20 for owner/occupiers.

During the year a Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was opened at Newcastle and this meant that any technical queries could be referred to them for advice. This has not only speeded up replies to queries but has been of great assistance.

On the table overleaf details are given of the record of this Council since the inception of the improvement grant scheme and this I feel will compare favourably with most other rural districts on a population basis.

DISCRETIONARY AND STANDARD GRANTS

1950 — 1964

Total number of properties improved with the aid of grants :— 334

Total amount of Grants :—£64,215.

	Discretionary	Standard	
Haltwhistle.. ..	147	15+14	R.D.C. properties
Bardon Mill	24	4	
Coanwood	5	2	
Eals & Slaggyford.. ..	11	7	
Featherstone	2	1	
Gilsland	11	8+2	R.D.C. properties
Greenhead	15	2	
Halton-Lea-Gate	3	2	
Lambley	3	1	
Melkridge	12	6	
Park Village	5	—	
Towhouse & Henshaw	15	—	
Whitfield	11	4	
	264	70	including 16 R.D.C. properties.

Caravan Sites

The number of caravans in the district is slightly less than last year and for the most part concentrated at Blenkinsopp Castle Caravan Site. Despite modern sanitary accommodation together with hot and cold running water, showers and launderettes, the site is below the number for which it is licensed for holiday caravans. These seem to prefer the attractions of the coast and riverside. However a number of requests for residential sites have had to be refused.

The Council are considering a holiday caravan site but there are handicaps to most suitable sites.

During the year no serious problems have arisen from caravan sites or gipsy caravans and part time parking of caravans on roadsides.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat

Since the 1st January, 1963, there are now only two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, however, meat is still being brought into the area from slaughterhouses in areas which have not yet reached their "appointed day."

The implementation of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, have not created a great problem in this area due to the co-operation with Hexham R.D.C. In my absence a Public Health Inspector carries out the necessary meat inspection. Without their co-operation it would be difficult to carry out the aforementioned regulations.

The number of animals slaughtered is slightly less than previous years, possibly due to the higher price of meat during part of the year.

8 cwts. 2 stone $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of meat was condemned during the year, mainly due to liver cirrhosis as against 13 cwts. 2 stone in 1963. The quantity of cooked meat condemned greatly increased, 206 lbs. as against 56 lbs. in 1963.

Arrangements for the disposal of the above condemned foodstuffs have been satisfactory.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	220	—	1	455	134	—
Number Inspected	220	—	1	455	134	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole Carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	40	—	1	30	6	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	18.2	—	100	6.6	4.5	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year :—

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (Home killed) Stones ..	5	—	—
Beef (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Mutton (Home Killed) „ ..	3	—	—
Mutton (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Pork (Home Killed) „ ..	—	—	—
Pork (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Offal (Home Killed) „ ..	59	—	—
Game lbs.	—	—	—
Poultry „ ..	—	—	—
Fish „ ..	—	—	—
Sausages „ ..	—	—	—
Bacon „ ..	—	—	—
Cheese „ ..	—	—	—
Butter „ ..	—	—	—
Lard „ ..	—	—	—
Eggs, Frozen „ ..	—	—	—

Unsound Food	Tins	Surrendered Weight	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Cooked Meat	20	206 lbs.	—	—
Fruit	—	—	—	—
Vegetables	—	—	—	—
Fish	—	—	—	—
Preserves	..	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—

Milk and Dairies

Number of Premises Licensed for the Sale of
Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized
Milk under the Milk (Special Designation)
(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulation,
1949-54 9

Duties under the above are now carried out by the County Council. Regular sampling having been made and co-operation maintained during the year.

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
--	---

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	33
--	----

Food Hygiene Regulations

As can be seen from the number of inspections the Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak resulted in a great increase in visits to food premises and was difficult to fit in with normal duties. Because of this outbreak it is felt that food hygiene is now taken much more seriously by the general public and food shops and it is hoped that this attitude will continue.

A number of tins from the suspected establishment were returned to the wholesalers and it is hoped that the arrangements for the disposal of these will be completed to prevent any reoccurrence of the re-issue of some of the suspected stock.

Food Premises

The following shows the number of food premises, by type of business in the District :—

Butchers	6
Bakehouses	5
Cafes	3
Snack Bars	4
Confectioners.. .. .	3
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	1
General Stores	23
Greengrocers	4
Hotels and Licensed Premises	19
Chemists	3
Sweets and Tobacconists	8

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

The implementation of the above Act is just only being felt and inspections are being carried out as time permits. Good co-operation is being received from owners and occupiers concerned and no formal action has been necessary.

WATER SUPPLY

General

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company are now the water undertakers for this district and co-operation was maintained during the year.

The yield from all sources was sufficient to meet the demand.

South West Northumberland Comprehensive Scheme

The benefits of this scheme are continuing to be felt. However, there are still a number of houses using private supplies which could now obtain mains water. It is understood that in certain instances schemes are with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and it is hoped that full use will be made of this scheme.

Private Supplies

A small number of samples were taken from private supplies during the year. Most of these proved satisfactory after, in some cases, suggested alterations to collection of water.

No samples of water for chemical analysis were taken by this Authority. However, this is done by the water undertakers for this area, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the following supplies and the appropriate steps were taken to eliminate contamination of the supplies where pollution was found :—

Date	Supply	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result
8/1/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
21/1/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	North Side	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Slaggyford	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
27/1/64	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Halton-Lea-Gate	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Slaggyford	Public	0	Satisfactory
17/2/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Reaygarth, Gilsland	Private	5	Suspicious
17/3/64	Slaggyford	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Slaggyford	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Well House, Cowburn	Private	8	Suspicious
	Well House, Cowburn	Private	2	Satisfactory
9/4/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Halton-Lea-Gate	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
28/4/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Slaggyford	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
7/5/64	Reaygarth, Gilsland	Private	0	Satisfactory
	Reaygarth, Gilsland	Private	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
29/5/64	Gunnerton	Public	3	Satisfactory
	North Side	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	3	Satisfactory
23/6/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	North Side	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory

Date	Supply	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result
15/7/64	Gunnerton	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	11	Unsatisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
29/7/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Edges Green, Haltwhistle	Private	3	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
12/8/64	Common House, Melkridge	Private	8	Unsatisfactory
	Common House, Melkridge	Private	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Edges Green, Haltwhistle	Private	0	Satisfactory
	Edges Green, Haltwhistle	Private	50	Unsatisfactory
1/10/64	Birch Trees	Public	13	Unsatisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	3	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	3	Satisfactory
7/10/64	Birch Trees	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	25	Unsatisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	1	Satisfactory
28/10/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
5/11/64	Slaggyford	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Halton-Lea-Gate	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	0	Satisfactory
2/12/64	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Birch Trees	Public	1	Satisfactory
14/12/64	Gilsland	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory
	Gunnerton	Public	0	Satisfactory

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	89	262	6	17
Coanwood ..	49	157	6	19
Featherstone ..	43	129	8	24
Greenhead ..	62	182	9	26
Haltwhistle ..	1,194	3,629	30	93
Hartleyburn ..	72	223	19	59
Henshaw ..	150	433	24	70
Melkridge ..	47	157	11	36
Plenmellor with Whitfield ..	27	86	2	6
Slaggyford ..	65	208	1	3
Thirlwall ..	140	455	6	19
	1,938	5,921	122	372

Sources closed or discontinued 2 No. of Houses 7

New Service provided :—

(a) By Local Authority .. Nil. No. of Houses Nil.
 (b) By Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company .. 25 No. of Houses 25
 (c) By Private Owner .. 4 No. of Houses 4

SEWERAGE

The extension of the Haltwhistle sewer to serve the Shield Hill was completed during the year and all those properties with pail closets are now connected to the sewer. This means that all accessible properties in the Haltwhistle parish can connect to the sewer. Unfortunately, a number of property owners on the Shield Hill are still relying on septic tanks for disposal.

At Rowfoot the alterations to the works which were completed at the beginning of 1964, has shown a poor response to request to connect to this sewer. Only one property had been connected by the end of 1964 and it is hoped that formal action will not have to be recourse to so that all properties are connected in 1965.

There was no improvement in sewerage arrangements in Greenhead, Henshaw and Bardon Mill and complaints were again received. A consultant engineer has been engaged by the Council but no works were commenced in 1964 due to difficulties experienced in finding suitable disposal points and satisfying the British Transport Commission. It is hoped that these schemes will at least commence in 1965.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and has again operated satisfactorily during the year and no abnormal sickness amongst employees occurred. The five day week continues to work efficiently and has been welcomed by the men and is of great benefit during holiday periods.

Collections are made from practically all the reasonably accessible properties in the district once per week with the exception of Haltwhistle which is collected twice weekly. In addition, a number of isolated farms have their refuse collected by arrangement. Further farms are now receiving the benefits of this service and thereby reducing the litter problem.

A 7 cubic yard petrol driven Karrier Bantam with driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle and Plennmeller. This vehicle is becoming increasingly costly to maintain, being ten years old and it is hoped that this will be replaced shortly.

The outside district is collected with a Ford Thames diesel vehicle manned by a driver and loader. This vehicle proves to be much more economical on fuel than the previous petrol driven vehicle.

The collection and disposal of refuse becomes more difficult each year and refuse gets bulkier and bulkier ; more tinned goods are consumed and returnable cartons a thing of the past.

In addition, sanitary pails are collected by the refuse collection staff from various parts of the district still without adequate sewerage systems. This unpleasant task is carried out with as little nuisance as possible. The problem is being eased slightly by conversion of pail lavatories to water lavatories with the aid of Grants. However, the only solution is for the villages all to be provided with efficient sewerage facilities.

The conversion of pail lavatories has eased the collection difficulty slightly on the outside area, but the problem of tipping has not got any easier during the year. All refuse is now being brought to Plennmeller, with the exception of half a day's refuse which is disposed of at Lambley. Though not economical on fuel or labour, this method is the only one available due to the lack of suitable tips.

No assistance has yet been given by Town and Country Planning in suggesting suitable sites for tips in the area. Sites for tipping in urban districts appear to meet more readily with Town and Country Planning approval than those in a scattered rural district such as this.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS, 1949

The Council employ on a part time basis the retired rodent operative. This has worked extremely well due to the fact that he is now more readily available than while employed as tip attendant etc.

The Council make no charge for treating private properties but a small charge is made for business premises.

The number of infestations is greater than last year, possibly due to the mild winter.

I would again like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food staff who were of great assistance during the year in this area and as Chairman of the South West Northumberland Workable Area Committee thanks must be given for the assistance by the administrative and technical staff.

The annual return to the Ministry is given in the following table.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agri- cultural
	NON-AGRICULTURAL				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (incl. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of Properties in Local Authorities District	10	2,059	477	2,546	343
Number of Properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	3	54	18	75	—
(b) Survey under the Act ...	30	70	36	136	—
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose	19	176	125	320	121
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...	180	412	217	809	150
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats Major ...	6	1	2	9	—
Minor ...	16	46	18	80	4
(b) Mice Major ...	—	1	2	3	1
Minor ...	—	44	7	51	2
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	7	93	21	121	2
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	22	81	19	122	2
Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act :—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work— (<i>i.e.</i> , Proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
Number of 'Block' control Schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Local Authority refuse tips are not normally included in the Valuation Roll, however, these have been included in Group I. Rodent control is, of necessity greater at these than at other local authority properties.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961.
Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	32	130	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	130	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act.
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 & 111)
NIL RETURN.

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in this area.

Litter

The Council have taken the opportunity of a free litter bin service in return for small advertisements on the bins.

The provision of litter bins in laybys by the County Council has assisted the problem, but despite their prominence, they could be more fully used by the public.

No difficulties have been experienced in the disposal of abandoned motor cars in the area, though as in all rural districts indiscriminate tipping of old bedding, furniture etc., occurs.

Common Lodging House

The one common lodging house in the district which is privately owned, is situated in Haltwhistle and is now the only one between Carlisle and Newcastle.

There are a number of regular occupants but the use by casuals decreases each year.

Regular inspections are made and any defects found are promptly dealt with.

No action has been necessary by the Police during the year.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections	41
Applications for Council houses	153
Welfare	80
House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959	
(Improvement Grants) Discretionary Grants .	204
Standard Grants ..	136
Housing General	21
Rent Act, 1957, Certificate of Disrepair	2
Pail Closet Conversions	250
Sanitary Accommodation	301
Drainage	255
Water Supply	148
Moveable Dwellings	45
Rodent Control.. .. .	208
Refuse Collection and Disposal	184
Factories	172
Food Premises	390
Infectious Disease	263
Nuisances	106
Common Lodging House	29
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	149
Miscellaneous	62
	3,199



